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To guard against Misrepresentation,

AN
AUTHENTIC STATEMENT,
FAITHFULLY EXTRACTED FROM THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
OF THE
PRIVY COUNCIL,
APPOINTED BY
HIS MAJESTY.

to Great Britain. Privy Council



To guard against Misrepresentation.

AN
AUTHENTIC STATEMENT,
FAITHFULLY EXTRACTED FROM THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
OF THE
PRIVY COUNCIL,
APPOINTED BY
HIS MAJESTY,
FOR THE
Consideration of all Matters relating to the intended
SYSTEM OF COMMERCE
BETWEEN
GREAT-BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,
Observations resulting from the FACTS, as
stated by the COMMITTEE.
ADDRESSED TO THE
MERCHANTS AND MANUFACTURERS OF
GREAT-BRITAIN.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR J. DEBRETT, OPPOSITE BURLINGTON-
HOUSE, PICCADILLY. 1785.



AUTHENTIC STATEMENT,

&c. &c.

FROM the time that the first intimation of a design to establish a new system of commerce between Great-Britain and Ireland was given to the public, your minds have been kept in anxiety and suspense, by a variety of contradictory informations, and statements, unsupported by any satisfactory proofs. Anonymous publications have held the place of authentic documents; and vague assertions, which could produce no claim to credit or confidence, have been forced upon you, instead of avowed information, the result of enquiries instituted by authority.

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At length this evil is in part removed ; The Committee of the Privy Council, to whom His Majesty has been pleased to recommend a minute enquiry into the several branches of trade and manufacture that are connected with the commerce of the two kingdoms, have published their report, and it has been laid on the table of the House of Commons.

This report contains the testimonies of the most eminent of our manufacturers, and conveys, as far as it proceeds, such a fund of indisputable information, as could not well be procured by any other mode. The shortness of the time allowed to the Committee for examination, has not suffered them to carry their enquiries into many of the material points. Even in those which they have investigated, they have not had sufficient opportunities to acquire as distinct a knowledge of the subject, as in their zeal they would have wished. Of this they complain to His Majesty : But as they are still carrying on their enquiries, it is to be hoped that before the important question be finally brought before Parliament, much material information will be procured by them, from persons interested in the many important branches of commerce and manufacture, which must be affected by the new regulations, but which do not appear on the present report.

In

In the meantime it has been thought advisable, to lay before you the most important parts of the information which they have conveyed to His Majesty. They are faithfully extracted from the printed copies, and a few observations are added to each article. Practical men will easily discover how far these observations may or may not be founded. They will judge for themselves.

W O O L L E N S.

From the report of the Committee, it appears that Irish Woollen Yarn (which is *essential* to the Norwich manufacturers, to the manufacturers of Stuff in the West-Riding of Yorkshire, Hallifax, and the country round it, and some branches of the Manchester manufacture) can be purchased here *six per cent. cheaper*, including freight, carriage, and all expences, than we can purchase our own Woollen Yarn.

That *Irish Yarn* is now imported into this kingdom, *duty free*.

That according to the proposed regulations, it will be subject to a duty of 10*l.* 10*s.* *per cent.* on value.

That in the year 1780, Ire-			
land exported only mixed			
Woollen, or what is called	yards.	increase.	
New Drapery,	8,653		
That in the year 1783, the ex-		yards.	
ported of ditto, —	538,806	} 330,153	
That in the year 1782, the			
exported of Flannels,	230	} 11,086	
In 1783, —	11,416		
That in 1782, Great-Britain			
exported into Ireland, of		} decrease.	
New Drapery, —	547,336	} 224,119	
In 1784, —	323,217		
That in 1780, Ireland ex-			
ported of Old Drapery, in		} increase.	
which are included the finer			
cloths, — —	494	} 40,095	
In 1783, —	40,589		
That in 1782, Great-Britain			
exported into Ireland, of		} decrease.	
Old Drapery, —	363,787	} 9,648	
In 1784, —	354,139		

OBSERVATIONS.

Irish Yarn being by the intended regulations,
subject to a duty of 10*l.* 10*s.* per cent. on im-
portation,

portation, it will cost *four per cent. more than* British Woollen Yarn, instead of *six per cent. less*. All the stuff manufacturers agree, that they cannot procure sufficient English Woollen Yarn for the extent to which they now carry on their business; consequently they must continue to purchase the Irish Yarn, though *at the advanced price*, even supposing that Ireland will continue to export the same quantity of Yarn she has been accustomed to do. But that this will not be the case, will appear most probable from the rapid increase in the exports of those manufactures of her own, in which Woollen Yarns are employed as with us, since the time the foreign markets were opened to her. This export must still increase from every additional encouragement she receives; and now that our markets are to be open to her, can it be doubted that she will find it much more to her advantage, to send her Woollen Yarns to us in a *manufactured* than in an *unmanufactured* state? The British stuff manufacture will then decrease in a double proportion, in as much as the raw material will be scarcer and dearer, and as our new rival (possessing these advantages which we shall lose, and adding to them the cheapness of provisions and of labour, and of every article necessary to the manufacture), may well afford the freight and duty on *importation into this country*, which our stuff manu-

manufacturers have hitherto afforded *on importation into Ireland.*

As to the manufacture of old draperies, in which are included the finer cloths, tho', on the opening of the foreign markets, it was in a worse state than that of the new drapery, as *twenty to one*, yet it appears that it has encreased beyond it, within these three years, in a proportion of upwards of *ninety to sixty*. It is, therefore, difficult to discover upon what grounds the Committee state the British manufacture of fine woollen, to be *in no danger* from the new regulations. It is very probable, that for some years it will not be very *materially* affected by them. However it appears, even from the very imperfect information they have received that the Irish have wool that can mix with the Spanish wool as well as the English, and that they can purchase Spanish wool as *easily* as we can (they should have been told *easier* and *cheaper*, from the shortness of the navigation, from the Linens which they can export there to exchange, and from the credit which they are likely to obtain, in consequence of the late encouragement given by them to the wines and other articles in that country.)

Besides, if wool for the finer cloths be not *now* in as great quantity in Ireland as with us, what is there
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in the new arrangement, to prevent them from improving their breed of sheep, or of inviting additional manufacturers, the want of which, the Committee were told by Mr. Everett, was the principal reason of their not having had it in their power to carry on this manufacture to any greater extent.

It appears, that as the exportation of the *Irish* old draperies has *increased*, the exportation of the *English* old draperies has *decreased*.

C O T T O N S.

It appears, that in 1783, there was in six months, from the port of Chester, an export to Ireland in printed Cottons and Callicoes, of

square yards. decrease.

In the six months of July to	130,000	} 112,000
December 1784	18,000	

That the same decrease has taken place in the other ports.

That the export of Cotton and mixed goods from Ireland to America was, in 1781, to the value of

	£.	145	12	4	increase.
In 1784	—	8,319	18	2	£.8174

That

That of Fustians, there was ex-
ported from Great-Britain to
Ireland, by one house, from
October, 1783, to January,
1784, to the value of £.5,000 0 0

From October 1784, to January
1785 — — 000 0 0

That this House has not now a
single order but one to the
amount of £. 60 0 0

Tho' it is, by far, the first house
in Manchester for the Irish
trade.

That another house, which from
January, 1783, to August,
1784, exported to Ireland of
Fustians, to the value of £.6,271 19 0

From that time — — 000 0 0

That this House has no or-
der but to the amount of
from £.200 to 300.

That the export of Fustians from
Ireland to America was, in

			yards.	increase.
1781	—	—	1,108	} 4 6,129
In 1784	—	—	47,237	

That this decline in the export of Manchester
manufacturies to Ireland, is owing to the quantity
the Irish now manufacture of the same sort.—
That from their direct importation, and the dif-
ference

ference of insurance and freight, cotton-wool can be procured cheaper by the Irish than by the British manufacturer.

That the Irish manufacture possesses a most material advantage over the English, from the quantity of Irish yarn necessary to the manufacture, and which necessary costs much more here than in Ireland, and which can only be replaced by German linen-yarn, which is generally dearer.

That the Irish must have other greater advantages over the English manufacturer, from the cheapness of provisions, and the exemption from land tax, excise on soap, candles, and many other articles, and from stamp-duties upon bills, receipts, &c.

That the Irish have many of the Manchester machines already, and that the manufacturers have no doubt, but they will soon have them all.

That, as to the foreign markets, the Manchester manufacturers are greatly underfold, and have almost wholly lost some articles, in which they not long ago had a considerable demand.

O B S E R V A T I O N S.

The Manchester manufacturers have already lost the whole of the Irish trade. They have lost the foreign markets in some considerable articles, and they are greatly under-sold every where. In the same rapid proportion as they have declined, the Irish, who have engaged in the same manufacture, have advanced; and as the loss of the Irish market, and the decrease of demands from the market of America, and from the foreign markets, must disable the English manufacturer from carrying on his business with the same spirit, and as extensively as hitherto, the Irish will very soon be enabled to avail themselves of all the local advantages enumerated in the information given to the Committee, so as to afford the price of freight, commission, duties and excise on the manufacture, and yet undersell the Manchester people, even in our own market.

S I L K.

It appears that the raw material employed in this manufacture is cheaper to the Irish than to the English, as 2s. are to 7s. 4d. upon thrown silk, and as 10d. $\frac{1}{2}$ is to 4s. 6d. on the raw silk.

That

That the Irish silk manufacturers in general are now encreasing.

That they have manufactures of silk handkerchiefs, which the Informants think have rather diminished.

That there are great numbers of Irish employed in the silk manufactures in Lancashire and London, who, after having gained experience in the trade, return to their own country.

That some of these manufactures are of so simple a nature, that they depend more upon labour than skill.

That the export of several of the most valuable of the articles of those manufactures from Great Britain to Ireland has been very considerable.

That it has of late very considerably decreased, owing as the informants think to the non-importation agreements.

OBSERVATIONS.

The silk manufacturers, who have been examined before the Committee, have not hesitated to assert,

that considering the facts stated above, the British manufacturer, even under the strictest obligations of the intended arrangement, would have reason to dread a competition from the Irish even in the British market.

They declare their apprehensions, that in consequence of the intended regulations, great quantities of foreign silk manufactures would be imported thro' Ireland into Great Britain, and that French velvets, and in general all silks, might be imported through Ireland into Great Britain much cheaper than they can be wrought in Great Britain. They also declare, that though it might be some years before the Irish manufacturer could rival them in skill, yet he has other advantages that in time might enable him to rival them in the home market.

I R O N.

It appears that the Irish have a very considerable manufacture in several principal articles of iron wares.

That they import from this country a great quantity of iron ware.

That the importation of manufactured iron from this country has greatly diminished.

That

That the principal importation of bar iron into Ireland is from Russia.

That the cause of the diminution in the export of iron manufactures from hence to Ireland, is that they manufacture a great deal more themselves, because, from the small duty on iron imported into Ireland, they can manufacture it cheaper than we can.

That they have lately established very considerable mills and forges near Dublin.

That they have discovered veins of coal in various parts of Ireland, and that they are actually working several of them.

That various kinds of iron ore have been discovered in Ireland, some of it of the same kind as the Swedish iron ore, and as good in its quality ; and that offers have been made to some of the informants to engage in making iron in Ireland by a person gone there from England, well skilled in collieries and iron works.

That Ireland now imports bar iron from Great Britain at 2l. 2s. 1d. per ton cheaper than the British manufacturer pays for bar iron
im prted

imported in British ships: and that if she imports it directly from Russia, she has it at 2l. 5s. 7d. per ton less than the British manufacturer can procure it.

That no part of the duty paid on importation into Great Britain, is drawn back, on exportation of iron when manufactured.

OBSERVATIONS.

From the facts above stated, there is no branch of our manufacture that promises to remove so suddenly to Ireland as this. By the 4th resolution in the new arrangement, the Irish duties on bar iron imported from Great Britain, may, by construction, be made the common duty, as they are the lowest. But for the bar iron imported into that kingdom from Russia, there is no regulation in the new arrangements that can make Ireland raise the duties on it equal to ours. We may, indeed, at the expence of our Revenue, lower our duty on that article to the Irish standard, yet even so, there are other circumstances which must *in time* give Ireland a competition with us as well in foreign markets as in our own. The information given to the Committee of the iron ore and collieries have

lately discovered in Ireland, and of the exertions made to improve these discoveries, fall very short of the reality. No mention is made of Mr. Jones's collieries in the county of Leitrim, which are by far the richest and the best worked, and the most convenient to water carriage, being within three miles of the Shannon. These coals, though not so good for domestic use as ours, yet are every way as good for the uses of the forge. They are not far from some iron mines where forges and mills are already erected, and the country around them promises to abound in iron ore. Information has been given to the Committee of the very great encouragement now given by the Irish to their iron manufacturers, and Mr. Bolton of Birmingham, and the other persons examined with him, very justly observe, that though they have great confidence in the skill and ingenuity of their manufacturers, yet that the vicinity of the two countries enables the Irish very readily to adopt any improvement we may make; and that if they have the advantage in other things, our manufacturers in iron ware may go and settle themselves in Ireland.

C O R N.

With respect to this article, the Committee have entered no further into it, than to direct two
eminent

eminent Corn Factors to prepare such a plan for admitting Irish grain and flour into this country, as will correspond with the regulations made in favour of Great Britain in a Bill passed last session in Ireland.

It is to be observed, that this plan, which is published in the Report, violates essentially one of the principal provisions of the resolutions proposed to the Irish Parliament, and adopted by them. All prohibitions on the *importation* of the *growth*, product, or manufacture of either country into the other, are by these resolutions for ever to be done away. But the Corn Factors, authorised by the Committee, have settled prices, beyond which prohibitions on *the importation* of corn from either country are still to be continued.

It is further to be observed, that the Committee themselves have directed no part of their attention to the interests of Scotland in this article, though it is agreed on all sides that it is the part of Great Britain that must suffer most materially from the unlimited importation of corn from Ireland.

B E E R.

It appears that 80,000*l.* including the value of the casks, is the average amount of English beer imported annually into Ireland.

That

That after all drawbacks and allowances, there remains a duty of 6s. 6d. payable by the English brewer on every quarter of malt made use of in beer exported from hence to Ireland.

That malt exported to Ireland, not only pays no duty, but even receives a bounty of 2s. 6d. a quarter, when the price of barley is under 22s. per quarter,

That this bounty is equal to the whole charge of freight of malt to Ireland, compared with the London price, affording the Irish brewer a net profit of 6s. 6d. per quarter. or 20 per cent. on English malt used in Ireland, compared with the London price, and a difference of about 2s. 6d. a barrel upon beer.

That the Irish brewer has a considerable advantage from the drawback of the whole duty paid here on hops, being one penny per pound, with three five per cents upon it.

OBSERVATIONS.

The brewers examined before the Committee, after stating these facts, gave it as their opinion, that if skilful brewers should remove from hence to Ireland, induced from the present advantages of

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procuring

procuring and manufacturing English malt and hops free from those duties paid by the English brewer, as well as from the low price of labour in Ireland, it is very probable a dangerous competition might in time arise.

One of these advantages must remain to Ireland ; the cheapness of labour, and we should add to it the comparative cheapness of barley and of fuel, which is as much in favour of Ireland as the labour. The provisions made by the new regulations would secure to her most of the other advantages ; for the remedies suggested by the brewer and the Committee are in direct opposition to these provisions. They recommend Irish beer and ale imported into England should be subject to the duties now payable on English beer and ale imported into Ireland as well as to the internal or Excise duties. But this is contrary to the intention of the 4th Resolution: which provides, that the lowest duty is to be the common standard. By the 7th Resolution, England could lay no prohibition or new duty on the exportation of hops.

P O T T E R Y.

It appears that great quantities of Earthen Ware, or Pottery, are imported from this country into Ireland.

That

That this branch of our trade has increased most rapidly to all parts of the world.

That there are Potteries already established in Ireland, though not of any great consequence.

That they have most of the materials necessary in the manufacture, and that flint stones, which are one of the principal, are now imported from that country by our manufacturers.

That the duty on Earthen Ware, imported into Ireland from Great-Britain, is 15 *l.* 15 *s.* for every 100 *l.* value.

OBSERVATIONS.

Mr. Wedgewood, in his answer to the Committee, says it is his opinion, that if Pottery or Earthen Ware made in Ireland, was allowed to be imported into Great-Britain, there would be a danger of a competition in time, as well in the Irish and foreign as in our own markets. This gentleman attributes the rapid encrease of this trade amongst us to our new discoveries in the arts, to the skill of the manufacturers, the cheapness of the materials, and the encouragement given

to it by their Majesties. Ireland, he adds, may also make new discoveries in it; she may procure manufacturers equally skilful from this country, as she has already done, though not in numbers; and the encouragement given to the manufacture there, far exceeds what it has met with here. It further appears by Mr. Wedgewood's evidence, that in the short time since the duty was laid in this country upon glass, the Irish have instituted a most successful rivalry with us in that article. He justly concludes, that they may prove equally successful in their attempts to establish their Earthen Ware manufacture, which he says, they have again revived.

SOAP and CANDLES.

It appears that great quantities of Irish Tallow are imported every year into England.

That the Irish have a duty of 1s. 6d. per hundred on their Tallow *exported*, to which their manufacture will of course not be subjected.

That Great-Britain pays a duty of 5s. 2½d. per hundred on the Barilla, which the Irish import duty free, as an article used in bleaching their linen.

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That Great-Britain imports from Ireland great quantities of Kelp, which is a necessary ingredient in the Soap manufacture, at a duty of 16s. 6d. per ton, to which the Irish manufacture cannot be subject, and that if she imports it from other countries, she pays a still higher duty.

That the Irish have also British coal upon a lower duty than is paid here, when it is waterborne to any part of Great-Britain, particularly London.

That Great-Britain exports no Soap or Candles to Ireland.

That the Irish import neither Candles or Soap into Great-Britain, but what they smuggle.

That the duty on British Soap, imported into Ireland is 9s. 5½d. the hundred weight.

That the duty on British Candles imported into Ireland, is one halfpenny per pound.

That even on a supposition, that the Irish manufacturer upon importing his goods here, should be subjected to the internal excise laid upon
Candles,

Candles, yet as the British manufacturer pays his duty at the time of making his Candles, which is generally six months previous to the sale of them, and the Irish only on importation, the former must labour under a disadvantage of a halfpenny per dozen, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon the value.

That the difference in wages is $2\frac{3}{4}d.$ per dozen, or 3 and $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

OBSERVATIONS.

From this information, it is evident that the British Tallow-Handlers must be inevitably ruined, and that the manufacture of Soap will at least have to dread a very dangerous rivalry.

The Committee observed, and the new resolutions provide, that the Irish may continue their tax of 1s. 6d. per hundred, on the exportation of their Tallow. We may, indeed, by the seventh resolution, lay a similar duty on the exportation of our Tallow to them; but we have none to export. Besides, as they now can manufacture their Tallow for our market, they will naturally prefer sending it in its manufactured to its unmanufactured state, especially as the one will be only

only subject to a halfpenny a pound more than the other. But even if they should continue to import it in very small quantities, which probably would be the case, they would prevent us from getting Tallow from Russia, duty free. The legislature, might, if unfettered, procure us that advantage, to make up for the deficiencies in the Irish supplies; but by the ninth resolution, we shall be bound to give an *effectual preference* to all the products of their country, above those of any other nation. Under these disadvantages, and considering the quantity of Tallow produced in Ireland, it is impossible for the British manufacturer not to foresee that the Irish will effectually drive him from the home market.

But supposing that all these disadvantages could be removed, and every other duty be equalised, still the disadvantage of six and quarter *per cent.* which the British tallow-chandlers calculate from the difference of the time of paying the internal excise, and the comparative cheapness of wages, will ever secure a decided superiority to the Irish manufacture in a trade, which he can carry on to such an extent.

With respect to the soap, Ireland must ever possess unalienable advantages over Great Britain,
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from her having her kemp and her barilla duty free ; and from the cheapness of fuel, labour, and provisions.

No notice is taken here of the manufacture of soft-soap, as Ireland never manufactures any, but imports it from Holland. However, should she hereafter establish a manufacture of that article, she would at least possess equal advantages with Great-Britain in the management of it.

These are the only branches of our manufactures on which the Committee have had time to collect information or to make a report. It is much to be lamented, that they have been so restricted in their enquiries, and that this important business should be hurried forward with such precipitancy, as to deny them the opportunity of entering into the various details essential to the settlement of so complicated a system.

How small a part they have embraced of the arrangement which it is proposed to establish between the two kingdoms, it is superfluous to observe to persons of your knowledge and experience. The great question of the abolition of the navigation act, and the participation of our colonial trade in our own markets, which is to be given to
Ireland

Ireland by the second Resolution, do not appear to have made any part of their enquiry. They furnish no documents from whence we might learn what proportion of his Majesty's British subjects this Resolution is likely to affect.

By what means to preserve an unity of interests, and yet secure particular and exclusive advantages to each country—What peculiar commodities one kingdom might send to the other, and what receive in return to their mutual benefit, and on the only true principles of *equitable* interchange—What produce or manufacture of each country it would be necessary, for the purpose of this equitable interchange, to exempt from duties, and what to load with restrictions, or how to proportion those exemptions and restrictions, so as to preserve an equal balance—How to render the imposts on the importation of foreign goods into both kingdoms equal, so that neither could injure the general commerce of the other—How to reconcile the extension of Irish commerce with the security of British revenue—These, and the other *great outlines*, which it was natural to expect, that the wisdom and penetration of the Government of the first commercial country in the world would have traced out upon so important an occasion,

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you will in vain look for in the instructions given to the Committee for directing their enquiries.

Instead of these, we find a proposition submitted to them, miserably defective in its outlines, and evidently destructive in its objects. For what to a mercantile mind can appear so futile, or so manifestly calculated to *destroy* all equality of commerce, as a system of subjecting each specific article of the produce or manufacture of two countries to the same precise duty in one as in the other. Although such a system should not prove immediately detrimental to any particular branch of the manufactures of either, yet, in the amount of general interchange, the balance may be infinitely in favour of the one, and infinitely against the other. For example, when of two kingdoms, having equal advantages in their foreign trade, the one sends to the other a single article, duty free, to the amount of a million and a half annually, and the other can only send to the value of 20,000 in the same article, while all her other articles of interchange are loaded with heavy duties on their importation, where can be the equality of intercourse between them?

When the *basis* of the treaty is defective, it would be absurd to look into particulars, or to search

search for advantages in the several parts which it professes to adjust. And yet, even in this detailed enquiry, we shall find Great-Britain threatened with certain ruin, in almost every branch of her commerce and manufacture. The report of the Committee too fully warrants this apprehension as far as it has proceeded. Those of you, who are interested in the articles that remain to be investigated, already know that *your* ruin must be equally certain.

F I N I S.

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☞ The above are the Papers moved for by the Earl of Carlisle in the House of Lords ; they were moved for by Mr. Fox in the House of Commons ; and another motion was made for their Production in the House of Lords.

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